

## Chair's Report June 21, 2010

### Partnerships

**A Research and Reference partnership** between Toronto Public Library, the Ontario Genealogical Society, and the Ontario Library Association, allowed TPL to have a strong presence at the annual provincial conference of the Ontario Genealogical Society, May 13-16. The conference draws genealogists from across Canada and the U.S. – with nearly 800 attending this year – giving TPL staff an excellent opportunity to update their knowledge by attending sessions given by top North American genealogy experts. Genealogy specialists from North York Central and Toronto Reference libraries spread awareness of the library's extensive family history resources and services. Diana Fink and Andrew Lofft from North York Central's Canadiana department gave a presentation called Branching Out: Developing Genealogy Collections and Services in the Digital Age at a special pre-conference day called Libraries and Genealogy organized by the OLA. Andrew Lofft also gave a talk during the conference proper called Introducing Genealogists to the New TPL Website.

### Collections

**Toronto Reference Library will be loaning eight items from their Art Room to the AGO**, to be included in a summer show. The engravings, photographs and one book focus on the Victorian actress Ellen Terry and will be included in the Drama and Desire: Art and theatre from the French Revolution to the First World War.

### Capital Projects

Councillor John Parker, other City of Toronto representatives and Library staff were on hand for the **official opening of the Jenner Jean-Marie Community Recreation Centre, the Thorncliffe Branch of the library and the Thorncliffe Daycare Centre** on June 12. They were joined by members of the community for the open house celebrating the improvements to the community complex with a ribbon cutting ceremony, a recreational programming information presentation, interactive children's activities and tours of the facility. Kathy Gallagher Ross attended on behalf of the Board, bringing welcoming remarks.

Members of the public have been invited to comment on **plans for the new Scarborough Centre Branch**, which were unveiled at a second open house for the project on June 17 at the Scarborough Civic Centre. Phillip H. Carter Architects and Levitt Goodman Architects Ltd. gave those in attendance at the open house an opportunity to view a preliminary design concept. Members of the public unable to attend the open house can comment online at the library website.

### Programs

**June is shaping up to be a busy month**, with Aboriginal celebrations, Seniors Month programming across the city, and our partnership programs with Luminato.

## Media

Two May events helped keep the library profile high among Toronto news makers; **Make Some Noise** and the **Toronto Comic Arts Festival**, both held at Toronto Reference Library, garnered great coverage both in mainstream media outlets and on music and comic community blogs. TCAF generated dozens and dozens of event listings and the follow up commentary was invariably enthusiastic, not just about the festival, but about TRL being an excellent venue. There were many comments about how great it was to have a free public event held in such a wonderful, welcoming public space, and how the library has helped to raise the profile of comics as cultural artefacts.

Toronto Public Library is already on the local music community map because of the many ongoing concerts and workshops we've held over the past four years, and the May 28 Make Some Noise concert at TRL cemented our position as a local music player. Around 700 people attended the concert over the course of the evening, with over 500 on the floor (and in the mosh pit!) at any one time. An article on the respected music blog Chart Attack, summed up sentiments toward the event and the library for hosting it: "If this keeps up — and given the success of the Make Some Noise series, it might — then we may soon find ourselves asking how in the hell the library became the coolest concert promoter in town."

## Foundation

**Thorncliffe Branch got a grant from the City of Toronto Neighbourhood Beautification Program.** The \$4,000 will go toward beautifying the entrance to the library.

Councillor Shelley Carroll recently thanked Library staff, and in particular, **Dawna Rowlson**, Library Service Manager, **for their role in the detailed work and community partnership at the Fairview Branch** to beautify the outdoor area. Ms. Carroll is the local councillor for the branch. The project was the result of a City of Toronto Neighbourhood Beautification Program grant for \$4,000 combined with a Walmart – Evergreen Green Grant for \$10,000.